

SECTION 13.14.(i) The Rural Center shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on a quarterly basis concerning the progress of the programs created under this section. The first report is due no later than February 15, 2008.

STUDY EQUINE INDUSTRY IN NORTH CAROLINA

SECTION 13.14A.(a) Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year shall be allocated to the Agricultural Advancement Consortium for the purpose of assessing the numbers, composition, and value of the equine industry in North Carolina, analyzing the direct and indirect impact of the industry on the State's economy, and developing a comprehensive plan to maximize the economic opportunities presented by the industry.

SECTION 13.14A.(b) The assessment of the equine industry shall provide data on both a statewide and countywide basis. The assessment shall include the following:

- (1) A census of equines in the State, including numbers, breeds, and disciplines.
- (2) The value of equines in the State.
- (3) The number of equine owners.
- (4) The number of equine operations.
- (5) The size of equine operations.
- (6) The total acreage devoted to equine operations.
- (7) The value of equine-related assets.
- (8) The number of equines and owners participating in various activities within the State.
- (9) An analysis of the economic impact of the existing exhibition facilities including the Hunt Horse Complex, the Senator Bob Martin Horse Complex, the WNC Agricultural Center, and the Carolina Horse Park.
- (10) An analysis of the programs, contributions, and industry support provided by the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine and other equine programs, at both private and public education institutions including the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, Martin Community College, and St. Andrews College.
- (11) An analysis of the economic impact of breeding, training, and other horse operations.
- (12) An analysis of the economic impact of services provided to the equine industry including farrier, veterinary, design and planning, farm management and consulting, show management, and other services related to equines and equine operations.
- (13) An analysis of the economic impact, including manufacturing, agricultural production and employment, and wholesale and retail sales, of the purchase of equines, feed and grain, hay, tack and other horse equipment, riding clothes, insurance, vehicles and trailers, farm and pasture inputs, capital improvements such as barns, sheds, and fencing, and real estate, including planned equestrian communities.